

Early Cold War and Civil Rights Movement Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Post-World War II demographic shifts led to a large increase in births; what is the term used for the generation born during this period?**
 - A. Silent Generation**
 - B. Baby Boomers**
 - C. Generation X**
 - D. Millennials**

- 2. The phrase 'cult of domesticity' critique targeted which social class?**
 - A. Working-class women**
 - B. Upper-class women**
 - C. Rural women**
 - D. Middle-class women**

- 3. Which movement attacked the 'cult of domesticity' and argued middle-class society limited women?**
 - A. First Wave Feminism**
 - B. Second Wave Feminism**
 - C. Civil Rights Movement**
 - D. Black Lives Matter**

- 4. What term describes the close relationship between the military, defense industry, and government that grew in the 1950s?**
 - A. Military-Industrial Complex**
 - B. Domestic Welfare State**
 - C. Truman Doctrine**
 - D. Deterrence Theory**

- 5. In what year did Shirley Chisholm become the first Black woman elected to Congress?**
 - A. 1964**
 - B. 1968**
 - C. 1972**
 - D. 1980**

- 6. The phrase 'cult of domesticity' is most closely associated with which century?**
- A. 17th Century**
 - B. 18th Century**
 - C. 20th Century**
 - D. 19th Century**
- 7. Which congressional committee investigated possible Communist influence in the U.S. government and society after World War II?**
- A. Federal Bureau of Investigation**
 - B. House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)**
 - C. Internal Revenue Service**
 - D. National Security Agency**
- 8. Which ideology is defined by state ownership of the means of production, no private property, and equal distribution of wealth?**
- A. Communism**
 - B. Capitalism**
 - C. Democracy**
 - D. Monarchy**
- 9. Executive Order 9981, issued by President Harry S. Truman, desegregated which institution?**
- A. The Supreme Court**
 - B. The United States Military**
 - C. Public schools**
 - D. Federal Civil Service**
- 10. What term describes the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union to develop aerospace capabilities?**
- A. Arms Race**
 - B. Space Race**
 - C. Nuclear Race**
 - D. Tech Race**

Answers

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1. B
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. D
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. Post-World War II demographic shifts led to a large increase in births; what is the term used for the generation born during this period?

A. Silent Generation

B. Baby Boomers

C. Generation X

D. Millennials

The generation born during the postwar spike in births is described as Baby Boomers. After World War II, returning soldiers started families in a time of economic growth and optimism, leading to a dramatic rise in birth rates roughly from the mid-1940s to the early 1960s. This large, distinct cohort came of age during the 1960s and 1970s and shaped schools, housing, consumer culture, and later social movements, including civil rights and protest movements. The other names refer to different time periods: the Silent Generation were born a bit earlier and were children during the Depression and WWII; Generation X followed the baby boomers, born roughly in the mid-1960s to early 1980s; Millennials were born from the 1980s into the 1990s. So, the correct term for those born during the postwar birth surge is Baby Boomers.

2. The phrase 'cult of domesticity' critique targeted which social class?

A. Working-class women

B. Upper-class women

C. Rural women

D. Middle-class women

The idea being tested is how 19th-century gender expectations defined women's roles and who the critique targeted. The cult of domesticity described an ideal for women: piety, purity, submissiveness, and a focus on the home. This set of beliefs was most strongly promoted among middle-class white families in the United States and Britain, tying a woman's virtue and social value to her duties inside the home. Critics of this ideology argued that it confined women to the domestic sphere and kept them out of education, reform, and public life. Because the emphasis and debate centered on the norms and opportunities available to middle-class women, the critique is most accurately aimed at middle-class women. The other groups—working-class, rural, or upper-class—experienced different pressures and realities, and the cult's prominence and critique were not defined in the same way for them.

3. Which movement attacked the 'cult of domesticity' and argued middle-class society limited women?

- A. First Wave Feminism**
- B. Second Wave Feminism**
- C. Civil Rights Movement**
- D. Black Lives Matter**

Second Wave Feminism broadened feminism from securing legal rights to challenging everyday social norms that kept women in limited roles. A central critique was that the culture of middle-class life—the expectation that a woman’s place is in the home as wife and mother—unnecessarily restricted women’s opportunities in education, work, and public life. This movement argued that such domestic ideals are not natural truths but social constructs that shape access to jobs, pay, and political power. By advocating for reproductive rights, equal pay, childcare access, and broader career and educational opportunities, they showed how institutions and cultural expectations across society constrained women, not just in one area but across many aspects of life. While earlier waves fought for rights and legal status, the emphasis here is on transforming the everyday norms that the middle class used to keep women out of the public sphere.

4. What term describes the close relationship between the military, defense industry, and government that grew in the 1950s?

- A. Military-Industrial Complex**
- B. Domestic Welfare State**
- C. Truman Doctrine**
- D. Deterrence Theory**

The idea being tested is the growing interconnection among the military, the defense industry, and the government in the 1950s. This relationship—where defense contractors, the Pentagon, and lawmakers influence each other to shape budgets, procurement, and policy—is captured by the term military-industrial complex. In the Cold War era, sustained defense spending, rapid technological development, and heavy reliance on contractors created a cycle in which military needs drove industry, and industry influence helped mold political decisions and spending priorities. This dynamic helps explain why defense considerations loomed large in policy debates of the time. The other options don’t describe this intertwined network: the domestic welfare state refers to social programs, the Truman Doctrine is about containing communism through aid, and deterrence theory is a strategic concept about preventing attack, not a description of the domestic-military-industrial relationship.

5. In what year did Shirley Chisholm become the first Black woman elected to Congress?

- A. 1964
- B. 1968**
- C. 1972
- D. 1980

Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1968. She won the election that year for New York's 12th district, and she took office in January 1969. So 1968 is the year she was elected. This happened during a period of expanding civil rights and efforts to increase representation in national politics, making her victory a landmark moment for both Black Americans and women.

6. The phrase 'cult of domesticity' is most closely associated with which century?

- A. 17th Century
- B. 18th Century
- C. 20th Century
- D. 19th Century**

The idea tested is the time period most closely tied to the cult of domesticity, a mid-1800s set of beliefs that women should artisan the home, forming the moral center of the family. In the United States and Britain, this ideology framed women as guardians of virtue and domestic virtue, emphasizing four traits: piety, purity, submission, and domesticity. It rose as industrialization drew men into wage work outside the home and middle-class life came to revolve around the home as the private sphere. Because this pattern and its terminology are strongest in the 19th century, that is the period most associated with it. Earlier centuries didn't crystallize this same organized ideology with the same emphasis, and the 20th century moves away from it as broader women's rights movements challenged these roles.

7. Which congressional committee investigated possible Communist influence in the U.S. government and society after World War II?

- A. Federal Bureau of Investigation
- B. House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)**
- C. Internal Revenue Service
- D. National Security Agency

After World War II, fear of Communist influence led the U.S. to turn to a congressional body to probe suspected subversion. The House Un-American Activities Committee is the one that fits this role: a committee in the House of Representatives specifically charged with investigating alleged disloyalty and influence by communists in government, in the entertainment industry, in unions, and in other areas of society. Its high-profile hearings helped shape the era's anti-communist climate. The other options aren't congressional committees. The FBI is a federal investigative agency, the IRS handles taxes, and the NSA is a signals-intelligence agency. None of them are a House or Senate committee dedicated to investigating communist influence.

8. Which ideology is defined by state ownership of the means of production, no private property, and equal distribution of wealth?

A. Communism

B. Capitalism

C. Democracy

D. Monarchy

Communism is an economic ideology in which the means of production—factories, land, and resources—are owned by the community or the state rather than individuals. Private property in productive assets is eliminated, and wealth is distributed to minimize or eliminate class differences, with the goal of providing equal access to goods and services for all. This combination—state ownership of production, no private property in productive assets, and an emphasis on equal distribution of wealth—captures the defining idea of communism. Capitalism centers on private ownership and market competition, not shared ownership and planned distribution. Democracy is a political system that can exist under different economic arrangements, and monarchy refers to a form of rule, not an economic model.

9. Executive Order 9981, issued by President Harry S. Truman, desegregated which institution?

A. The Supreme Court

B. The United States Military

C. Public schools

D. Federal Civil Service

Executive Order 9981 targets equal treatment in the armed forces, making the U.S. military the institution it desegregated. Signed by Truman in 1948, it declared that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. This established the policy of desegregation across the military branches and set a precedent that a unified, non-discriminatory fighting force was essential to national security and democracy at home. The other areas—public schools, the Supreme Court, and the federal civil service—were addressed by different actions and later developments, not by this executive order.

10. What term describes the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union to develop aerospace capabilities?

A. Arms Race

B. Space Race

C. Nuclear Race

D. Tech Race

The Space Race describes the rivalry to push aerospace capabilities—rocketry, satellites, and human spaceflight—between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. It focuses on space-related milestones that became symbols of national prestige, such as launching the first artificial satellite, sending a person into orbit, and landing humans on the Moon. While another term like Arms Race refers to overall military buildup and a Tech Race would be too vague, Space Race is the best fit because it specifically centers on space exploration and the advanced rocket technology that makes aerospace feats possible. Milestones like Sputnik, Yuri Gagarin’s orbit, and the Apollo Moon landing illustrate why this competition is so closely tied to space rather than general weaponry or broader technological competition.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://earlycoldwarcivilrights.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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